



National Institutes of Health
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January 11, 2010

Dr. Christine Augustyniak
U.S. National Coordinator for the
OECD Test Guidelines Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 7509P
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Augustyniak:

We recently discovered on the OECD website a request for public comments on the proposed *OECD Draft Guidance Document for the Threshold Approach for Acute Fish Toxicity Testing*, with a requested deadline of January 15, 2010. NICEATM promptly circulated this request to ICCVAM and the ICCVAM Acute Toxicity Working Group (ATWG) and compiled comments that were received. Accordingly, we are pleased to provide the attached comments on behalf of NICEATM, ICCVAM, and the ATWG to express our support for the Guidance Document. We ask that you forward these comments to the OECD Secretariat for consideration by the member countries as part of the U.S. position on this document. We also request the opportunity to discuss any proposed national position that differs from those provided in the comments before the national position is finalized. We would also appreciate if you would share with us any comments provided by U.S. experts outside of ICCVAM so that we can make them available to ICCVAM and the ATWG.

We believe that expeditious adoption of this proposed Guidance Document will support further reduction and refinement of animal use for acute toxicity testing. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions about the comments.

Sincerely,

/s/

William S. Stokes, D.V.M., D.A.C.L.A.M.
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Enclosure